From: perf@memberclicks-mail.net on behalf of PERF Daily Clips
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PERF Daily Clips - June 20, 2019

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OFFICER DISCIPLINE

Philadelphia Inquirer: Philadelphia Police Department takes 72 officers off street amid probe into controversial Facebook posts

The Philadelphia Police Department has taken 72 officers off street duty as it continues to investigate scores of racist or offensive Facebook posts allegedly made by city cops - the largest number of officers placed on desk duty at one time in recent history, Commissioner Richard Ross said Wednesday.

During a news conference at Police Headquarters nearly three weeks after advocates published a database cataloging the posts, Ross said that although no officers had yet been disciplined, he expected dozens to face internal consequences and at least several to be fired. He did not identify any by name.

"We are equally disgusted by many of the posts that you saw, and that in many cases the rest of the nation saw," Ross said. He later said the alleged behavior "defies logic" and "makes me sick," adding: "We are in a position to know better."

Ross' remarks updated a scandal that has enveloped his department, with 330 of its 6,500 officers included on a database known as the Plain View Project. Organizers of the database said they had cataloged thousands of dehumanizing or intolerant posts or comments made by cops in eight jurisdictions, including Philadelphia.

TECHNOLOGY

WIRED: How facial recognition is fighting child sex trafficking

One evening in April, a California law enforcement officer was browsing Facebook when she saw a post from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children with a picture of a missing child. The officer took a screenshot of the image, which she later fed into a tool created by nonprofit Thorn to help investigators find underage sex-trafficking victims. The tool, called Spotlight, uses text- and image-processing algorithms to match faces and other clues in online sex ads with other evidence.

Using Amazon's facial recognition technology, Spotlight quickly returned a list of online sex ads featuring the girl's photo. She had been sold for weeks. The ads set in motion some more traditional police work. "Within weeks that child was recovered and removed from trauma," Julie Cordua, CEO of Thorn, said, recounting the case at an Amazon conference in Las Vegas this month.

The rescue illustrates Thorn's strategy of nurturing new technology to combat child sex-trafficking and exploitation online.

RECRUITING

Washington Times: Police get creative to attract talent amid nationwide bidding war for recruits

The Seattle Police Department recently erected a billboard in Indianapolis to recruit Hoosiers for its force in Washington state, and other police departments have addressed staffing shortages by allowing officers to sport beards, mustaches and tattoos.

State and local governments across the country are having more trouble hiring police officers than any other category of personnel, studies show.

To address the shortage, a national bidding war for police force applicants has broken out. Departments are employing creative approaches to attract talent, including lip sync videos in Seattle and "Star Wars"-themed recruitment efforts in Fort Worth, Texas, as well as more traditional signing bonuses.

BODY-WORN CAMERAS

CNN: Buttigieg, amid a trying week, changes police department policy on body cameras

Mayor Pete Buttigieg directed his police chief on Tuesday to order all South Bend, Indiana, police officers to turn their body cameras on when interacting with civilians on duty, making the decision after a tumultuous week where the presidential candidate was pulled from the campaign trail after an officer-involved shooting left one man dead.

"Officers should activate their body cameras during all work-related interactions with civilians," South Bend Police Chief Scott Ruszkowski told officers Tuesday on the orders of

Buttigieg, the mayor's office announced.

MENTAL ILLNESS

Aspen (CO) Daily Times: Mental health assistance now available during police response

Law enforcement agencies in Pitkin County now have a team to assist with incidents involving someone with mental health and substance abuse issues.

The Pitkin Area Co-Responder Team (PACT) adds staffing for on-scene emergency responses, a case worker for follow ups and a peer support specialist to connect with people going through similar situations. The program is funded by a five-year grant awarded to Pitkin County's Public Health Department from Colorado's Marijuana Tax Cash Fund.

The program will support Pitkin County Sheriff's Office and the Aspen and Snowmass Village police departments. When a call comes in that involves a mental health situation, the co-responder will ride along to the scene.

CRIME RATES

Denver Post: Denver saw largest rise in violent crime rate last year compared to other large cities; early 2019 data show improvement

Denver's violent crime rate is rising faster than any other large city in the country, though the number of homicides, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults remains low compared with many other metropolises.

The per-capita violent crime rate in Denver grew 9 percent between 2017 and 2018, while the bulk of large cities in the U.S. saw a decline, a report from the Brennan Center for Justice shows. On average, violent crime rates in 25 of the nation's most populous cities dropped 4 percent in that time period.

But Denver police are hoping 2019 brings change, as data from the first five months show the upward trend may be shifting, said Denver Police Department Deputy Chief Barb Archer.

Denver police analyzed their crime numbers from 2018 but didn't find any particular factor driving the violence, she said

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TECHNOLOGY

CBS Los Angeles: RoboCop reporting for duty in Huntington Park

The Huntington Park City Council Tuesday got its first look at the newest member of the city's police force - a robot.

HP RoboCop will be used to keep an electronic eye on public areas when human police officers are not around.

The robot is designed for outside use and comes equipped with 360-degree high-definition cameras that can feed live video to the department and also record footage for subsequent viewing.

GUN VIOLENCE

KRIS Corpus Christi (TX): ATF program helps CCPD solve gun cases

The Corpus Christi Police Department has been part of a nationwide crime-fighting program since 2001. Its focus is solving gun-related crimes, something that's not all that easy.

The National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) was started by ATF in the late 1990s, and was revamped it in 2016. Locally, NIBIN paid off for investigators in a big way not too long ago.

On November 15, 2017, two men fired 47 bullets into a house on Breckenridge Drive, wounding a woman and a teenager. During the investigation, a rifle was seized; investigators used NIBIN data to link the rifle to the shooting.

MARIJUANA

Global News (Canada): Edmonton police launch 'put your skunk in the trunk' cannabis campaign

Since recreational cannabis became legal in Canada last October, the majority of marijuana-related charges the Edmonton Police Service have laid have been for improper transport.

According to the provincial Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act, "no person may transport cannabis in a vehicle unless the cannabis is contained in closed packaging that is out of reach of the driver and any other occupants of the vehicle."

Between Oct. 17, 2018 and May 31, 2019, 149 of 245 charges EPS laid under the Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act - or 61 per cent - were for improper transport.

The EPS believes a lot of this is due to confusion around the laws.

The service is launching a public education campaign called "Put Your Skunk in the Trunk" to address these misconceptions.

POLICE EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Naples (FL) Daily News: Historic appointment: Frazzano will be first woman to lead Marco Island Police Department

Montclair Township (N.J.) Deputy Chief Tracy Frazzano will continue her path in making history in law enforcement after being named the first woman to lead the Marco Island Police Department.

"I am very pleased and excited to report that Ms. Tracy Frazzano, who currently serves as Deputy Police Chief of Montclair Township, New Jersey, has accepted appointment as Marco Island's next police chief," said City Manager David Harden in an email to City Council Wednesday. "Her appointment is conditional and requires passing all the tests required of new police officers coming to the city. We certainly expect that she will have no difficulty doing that."

Frazzano, who was the first woman to become detective, sergeant, lieutenant, captain and deputy chief in Montclair, beat out 80 other candidates after the city officially listed the position more than three months ago.

POLICE EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

RochesterFirst.com (NY): Singletary formally approved to be Rochester's new police chief

Rochester City Council formally approved La'ron Singletary as Rochester's new police chief Tuesday night.

Mayor Lovely Warren selected the former deputy chief for the job in April. Until the vote, Singletary served the role with an interim title.

At 39 years old, he is one of the youngest police chiefs in city history.

POLICE EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

San Francisco Chronicle: Vallejo appoints Joe Allio as new interim police chief

The city of Vallejo on Tuesday announced a new interim police chief will temporarily take the reins of a department that has been roiled by controversy in recent years, from fatal policeshootings and disturbing uses of force to a botched investigation that led officials to falsely accuse a woman of faking her own kidnapping and rape.

City Manager Greg Nyhoff selected Joe Allio, a former Fairfield police chief and South San Francisco police officer, to become Vallejo's next top cop.

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